



BOSTON RURAL
DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

AND OF THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH
INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1971

1971

BOSTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman of the Council :

J. T. M. ALCORN.

Clerk of the Council :

D. E. SMITH, LL.B.

Staff of the Public Health Department

Medical Officer of Health :

G. HIRD, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector :

P. McPHUN, M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector :

C. E. THOMSETT, M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors :

R. LYALL, M.A.P.H.I.

B. K. OVERTON, M.A.P.H.I.

Chief Administrative Assistant : C. H. CUTHBERT.

Shorthand Typist/Clerk : Miss P. SHARPE.

Junior Clerk/Typist : Miss D. WESTMORELAND.
(appointed 13/12/71)

Medical Officer's Clerk : D. DADY.

BOSTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Council Offices,
126 London Road,
Boston, Lincs.
Telephone : 3271.

To the Chairman and Members of the Boston Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report on the work of the Health Department and the health of the District during 1971.

The Registrar-General's estimate of the mid-year population for the Rural District was 22,790. This was 150 fewer than in 1970. The natural increase in the population was 72.

During 1971 there were 294 births. This was 9 fewer than in the previous year. This gave a Crude Birth Rate of 12.9 and an Adjusted Rate of 12.8. This was lower than the National figure of 16.0, which is normally the position. 13 of the Births were illegitimate representing 4% of the Births. This was the same as in 1970. This was half the figure for England and Wales.

There were 6 Still Births. This was double the number that occurred in the previous year. The Still Birth Rate was 20.0 compared with 12.0 for England and Wales.

During 1971 there were 5 infant deaths under the age of 1 year. This was 1 fewer than last year. The Infant Mortality Rate was 17 compared with 18.0 for England and Wales. 3 of the deaths were under the age of 1 week.

The Perinatal Mortality Rate (a combination of Still Births and Deaths under 1 week) was 30 compared with 22.0 for England and Wales.

There were 222 deaths during the year, 122 males, 100 females. This was 8 less than in 1970. The Crude Death Rate was 9.7 and the Adjusted Rate was 10.2. The figure for England and Wales was 11.6. There were 122 deaths from Heart and Circulatory Disease, approximately 55% of the total. There were 40 deaths from Malignant Disease, which was 18% of all deaths.

With regard to Infectious Diseases there were 14 cases of Measles, 11 of Whooping Cough and 5 of Scarlet Fever. There were also 5 cases of Dysentery and 4 of Food Poisoning. On the whole this aspect of the work did not constitute a major problem during the year.

Generally speaking as far as the Vital Statistics for the District are concerned, they compare favourably with those for England and Wales. It must be borne in mind that when dealing with small populations, a slight variation in the actual numbers involved, will lead to a wide swing in the actual rate.

Full details of the many and varied aspects of the work of the Health Department will be found later in the Report. It has been a busy year for all concerned and the staff have again given of their best. They do a difficult job exceedingly well, and their efforts on behalf of the Council to improve standards in the District, are not always appreciated by some members of the public.

The assistance and help given by the other Chief Officers and their staffs is gratefully acknowledged.

To the Chairman and members of the Council I offer my thanks for their combined interest in and concern for all aspects of the Health Department's activities.

G. HIRD,
Medical Officer of Health.

October, 1972.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	84,398
Home Population (Registrar-General's Mid-Year estimate for 1971)	22,790
Number of dwellings on rate book	7,922
Number of rated dwellings per acre	0.093
Average number of persons per square mile ...	175
Estimated product of a penny rate	£5,295
Rateable value as at 1st April, 1971	£549,008

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The social conditions of the district have remained unchanged during the year.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	148	133	281
Illegitimate	6	7	13
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Live Births	154	140	294
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population (crude)	12.9
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population (adjusted)	12.8

Illegitimate live births per cent. of total live births ... 4.0

Still Births	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	1	3	4
Illegitimate	1	1	2
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Still Births	2	4	6
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	20
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	Male	Female	Total
Total Live and Still Births	156	144	300

Infant Deaths.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	4	1	5
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	4	1	5
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Infant Mortality Rates :—

(a) All infants per 1,000 live births	17
(b) Legitimate infants, per 1,000 legitimate live births	18
(c) Illegitimate infants, per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	3	—	3
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	3	—	3
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total live births ... 10

Deaths of Infants under 1 week of age	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	3	—	3
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	3	—	3
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Early Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total live births ... 10

Perinatal Mortality	Male	Female	Total
Still Births and Deaths under 1 week	5	4	9
Perinatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total live and still births ... ..	...	...	30

Maternal Mortality

Maternal Deaths (including abortion)	Nil
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	Nil

Deaths	Male	Female	Total
All causes	122	100	222
Death Rate per 1,000 of the population (crude)		...	9.7
Death Rate per 1,000 of the population (adjusted)		...	10.2

COMPARISONS WITH ENGLAND AND WALES :—

The figures for the Live Birth Rates and Death Rates given below have been corrected using the comparability factors supplied by the Registrar-General. These factors allow for the differing age and sex composition of the various populations, and enable valid comparisons to be made.

It is also emphasised that undue significance should not be attached to rates which are based on very small numbers (e.g. infant mortality) and that a comparison of such rates with those in other areas, or with earlier years may have little statistical significance.

	Boston R.D.	England & Wales
Live Birth Rate	12.8	16.0
Death Rate	10.2	11.6
Still Birth Rate	20	12
Infant Mortality Rate (Deaths under 1 year)	17	18
Neonatal Mortality (Deaths under 4 weeks)	10	12
Early Neonatal Mortality (Deaths under 1 week)	10	10
Perinatal Mortality Rate	30	22

Birth Rates, Death Rates and Infant Mortality Rates in Boston Rural District, 1957-1971.

Year	No. of Births	Crude Birth Rates	No. of Deaths	Crude Death Rates	Infant Mor- tality Rates	Average 5 Years		
						Birth Rates	Death Rates	Infant Mor- tality Rates
1957	366	16.6	252	11.4	24.6	15.5	9.4	20.5
1958	372	16.8	186	8.4	13.4			
1959	297	13.3	206	9.2	30.3			
1960	362	16.1	208	9.3	22.1			
1961	327	14.6	195	8.7	12.2			
1962	326	14.4	227	10.0	21.5	15.1	10.1	15.8
1963	366	16.1	239	10.5	13.7			
1964	351	15.4	220	9.7	11.4			
1965	348	15.3	237	10.4	14.4			
1966	330	14.5	227	10.0	18.2			
1967	326	14.2	204	8.9	21.5	13.4	9.7	15.0
1968	300	13.1	225	9.8	13.3			
1969	314	13.7	229	10.0	3.0			
1970	303	13.2	230	10.0	20.0			
1971	294	12.9	222	9.7	17.0			

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE DISTRICT IN 1971.

Cause of Death.	Males	Females
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	1	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity, etc. ...	1	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus ...	1	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach ...	4	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine ...	1	5
Malignant Neoplasm, Larynx ...	—	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus ...	5	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast ...	—	6
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus ...	—	2
Leukaemia ...	—	1
Other Malignant Neoplasms ...	7	4
Diabetes Mellitus ...	1	2
Anaemias ...	1	1
Multiple Sclerosis ...	—	1
Other Diseases of Nervous System ...	2	—
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease ...	1	2
Hypertensive Disease ...	2	2
Ischaemic Heart Disease ...	32	19
Other forms of Heart Disease ...	11	13
Cerebrovascular Disease ...	15	17
Other Diseases of Circulatory System ...	5	3
Pneumonia ...	9	7
Bronchitis and Emphysema ...	7	1
Peptic Ulcer ...	—	3
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia ...	2	1
Other Diseases of Digestive System ...	2	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis ...	1	—
Hyperplasia of Prostate ...	2	—
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System ...	1	1
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System ...	—	2
Congenital Anomalies ...	—	1
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc. ...	2	—
Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality ...	2	—
Motor Vehicle Accidents ...	3	—
All other Accidents ...	—	2
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries ...	1	—
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	122	100

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

LABORATORY FACILITIES :

Facilities are available at the Public Health Laboratory, Lincoln for the bacteriological examination of samples of water and ice cream.

The laboratories of the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene, London, continue to carry out chemical examinations of water samples on behalf of the Department.

AMBULANCE SERVICE :

This service is provided and maintained by the Holland County Council through the Ambulance and Transport Department.

SCHOOL MEDICAL AND MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES :

These services are administered by the Holland County Council.

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS :

The provision and administration of Treatment Centres and Clinics is delegated to the Regional Hospital Board and the County Council.

The treatment of Scabies and similar complaints is carried out at Ferry House Clinic, London Road, Boston, which is under the control of the County Council.

NURSING IN THE HOME :

The home nursing service is under the control of the Local Health Authority.

HOSPITALS :

All Hospitals in the area are administered by the Boston Group Hospital Management Committee for the Sheffield Regional Hospital Board.

Details of the facilities available in Boston and District are as follows :—

Pilgrim Hospital—Obstetric only until 28th February, 1971. From 28th February, 1971—Obstetrics, Special Care Baby, Traumatic and Orthopaedic Surgery, Paediatric, Gynaecology.

Boston General Hospital—Acute General to 28th February, 1971 and from then, Acute-Surgical, E.N.T. and Ophthalmology.

Wyberton West Hospital—General Medicine to 1st August, 1971—closed from then. Re-opened on 2nd January, 1972 as Chronic Sick Unit.

Woodlands Court Hospital—Chronic Sick.

White House Hospital—Infectious and Chest Diseases.

London Road Hospital—General, Orthopaedic and Traumatic Surgery and Ophthalmic to 28th February, 1971.

Hospital closed from 28th February, 1971 to 31st July, 1971—re-opened as General Medicine.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948—SECTION 47—REMOVAL TO SUITABLE PREMISES OF PERSONS IN NEED OF CARE AND ATTENTION :

No action was taken by the Council under this Section.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The following table shows the total number of infectious diseases notified and confirmed during the year and the numbers admitted to hospital.

Notifiable Diseases during the year, 1971.

Disease.	Cases Notified	Confirmed Cases	Cases admitted to Hospital
Acute Meningitis	1	1	1
Dysentery	5	5	Nil
Food Poisoning	4	4	Nil
Infective Jaundice	1	1	Nil
Measles	14	14	Nil
Scarlet Fever	5	5	Nil
Whooping Cough	11	11	Nil

Infectious Diseases Notified 1962—1971.

Disease	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962
Acute Encephalitis : (Post Infectious)	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Meningitis ..	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ..	5	—	3	3	63	30	—	4	243	16
Food Poisoning ..	4	19	—	1	2	1	1	—	5	1
Infective Jaundice	1	4	28	2	1	3	—	—	—	—
Measles ..	14	13 ^a	19	37	409	52	641	108	347	172
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ..	5	—	13	10	2	19	18	12	1	7
Whooping Cough ..	11	1	4	15	19	12	29	85	7	3

TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER.

Table I.

	Males		Females		Total
	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Pul.	Non-Pul.	
(a) Number of cases on Register at beginning of year	42	8	41	7	98
(b) Number of cases notified for first time in year	1	—	—	—	1
(c) Number of cases restored to Register	—	—	—	—	—
(d) Number of cases added to Register other than by formal notification	—	—	—	—	—
(e) Number of cases removed from Register during the year	5	2	2	1	10
(f) Number of cases remaining on Register on 31st December, 1971 ...	38	6	39	6	89

SUMMARY OF CASES ON THE TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER 1962-1971

Table II.

Year	Cases on Register			Notifications each year			Deaths		
	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Total	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Total	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Total
1962	97	15	112	6	2	8	—	—	—
1963	93	16	109	9	2	11	—	1	1
1964	89	16	105	2	1	3	2	—	2
1965	91	15	106	5	1	6	1	1	2
1966	92	15	107	6	1	7	4	—	4
1967	85	16	101	3	1	4	6	—	6
1968	84	16	100	2	—	2	1	—	1
1969	81	15	96	—	—	—	2	—	2
1970	83	15	98	4	—	4	1	—	1
1971	77	12	89	1	—	1	2	—	2

TUBERCULOSIS :

Cases notified within the Rural District come under the control of Dr. A. M. Forrest, Chest Physician, South Lincolnshire Area.

The following table gives details of new cases notified and deaths occurring during the year.

Age Groups	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
55—65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Over 65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION :

All immunisation and vaccination work within the District is under the jurisdiction of the Holland County Council.

The following information has kindly been supplied by the County Health Department.

IMMUNISATION :

Diphtheria :

Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	...	112
1 and under 5 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	194
5-14 years	...	..	...	...	...	...	22
						—	328

Number of Booster Injections 731

Combined Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus :

Under 5 years	306
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The percentage of children immunised against Diphtheria in relation to the child population is as follows :—

Under 1 year	41.1%
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VACCINATION AGAINST MEASLES :

Under 1 year	20
1 and under 5 years	241
5-15 years	72

333

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX :

Primary Vaccinations :

Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
1 year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	67
2-4 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
5-14 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
15 years and over	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30

161

Re-vaccinations :

1 year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
2-4 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
5-14 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
15 years and over	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	53

72

VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS :

The position of poliomyelitis vaccination at 31st December, 1971 was as follows :—

Of the babies born in 1971 37.1% had been vaccinated at 31st December 1971 and by 31st March 1972 this figure had risen to 58.4%.

Comparable figures for 31st December 1970 and 31st March 1971 were 33.5% and 58.2%.

Other Pre-School Age Groups. Percentage Vaccinated.

Born in	1971	1970
1970	96.7	33.5
1969	89.8	81.7
1968	106.5	105.1
1967	100.0	99.6

The above figures and those following in the table below show a steady increase, the pre-school age group being slightly higher than the school age group.

School Age Groups.**Percentage Vaccinated.**

Born in				1971	1970
1966	...	...	...	101.2	99.0
1965	...	...	...	99.7	97.6
1964	...	...	...	95.7	94.5
1963	...	...	...	107.0	106.0
1962	...	...	...	103.3	100.6
1961	...	...	...	97.5	96.6
1960	..	...	...	94.4	93.0
1959	...	...	...	97.6	97.6
1958	...	...	...	91.9	91.9
1957	...	...	...	93.7	93.7
1956	...	...	...	98.4	98.4
1955	...	...	...	90.1	90.1

In the above two groups of figures there are five age groups that have exceeded 100% of children vaccinated. This is due to the fact that some children were born in other counties and have moved to this county prior to being vaccinated.

Re-inforcing Dose 15-18 years inclusive.

Children of this age group are contacted through the help of Head Teachers of Senior Schools each year. Those who have left school are contacted by post.

The number of children of this age group who had received this further dose during 1971 was 207. The response to this dose seems to be falling off compared to previous years.

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY.

I am indebted to Mr. N. A. Eagles, Engineer and Manager of the South Lincolnshire Water Board, for the following report of the Rural Water Supply.

The total quantity of water put into the supply at Sutterton Pumping Station during the year was 614,092,000 gallons which was an increase of 9,742,000 gallons (1.6%) over the previous year. This total quantity was distributed to the Rural District and supplied in bulk to the East Lincolnshire Water Board as follows :—

	Boston Rural District	East Lincs. Water Board
1971 ...	307,492,000 gallons	306,600,000 gallons
1970 ...	355,627,000 gallons	248,670,000 gallons

The consumption in the Rural District decreased by 13.5% and the amount supplied to the East Lincolnshire Water Board increased by 23.4%. The average daily quantity supplied to the Rural District was 843,000 gallons which represents a consumption of 37 gallons per head of population per day.

The following table shows the new mains laid in the Rural District area during the year :—

Analysis of a Sample of South Lincolnshire Water Board Raw Water from Jockey Drove Pumping Station.

Time and Date Sampled :—11.00, 27th July, 1971.

ANALYTICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION (mg/1)

Appearance :—Clear and bright.

Colour (Hazen)	Nil	Odour	Nil
pH	7.35	Alkalinity as Ca CO ₃	249
B.O.D. 5/20	—	Caustic Alkalinity as Ca CO ₃	Nil
C.O.D.	2.79	Total Hardness as Ca CO ₃	308
Suspended Solids	Nil	Calcium Hardness as Ca CO ₃	256
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.37	Dissolved Solids at 105°C	444
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.04	Total Mineral Acidity	130
Total Organic Nitrogen	—	Residual Chlorine	Nil
Nitrite Nitrogen	Nil	Iron	0.07
Nitrate Nitrogen	Nil	Copper	0.01
Chloride as Cl	25	Zinc	Nil
Sulphate as So ₄	94	Lead	Nil
Fluoride (F)	0.52	Free CO ₂	20
Manganese	Nil	P.V. 4 hrs at 27°C.	0.25

Other Analyses :—Non Carbonate Hardness = 59 mg/1 as Ca Co₃
 Calcium as Ca = 103 mg/1
 Magnesium as Mg = 12.6 mg/1

Remarks :—This water is very hard in character but free from toxic metals. It is of good organic quality although the Free and Saline Ammonia content is slightly high. It is free from excess elements injurious to health.

Water Analysis.

36 Samples of water drawn from the mains at various points in the District were submitted by the Public Health Department for bacteriological examination to the Public Health Laboratory at Lincoln and one sample was submitted to the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene for chemical analysis. The results showed the water to be satisfactory.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR ON THE SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

H O U S I N G

Slum Clearance.

Action continued during the year in dealing with unfit houses under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957. No clearance areas were represented during the year.

The following table shows the current position relative to action taken :—

Unfit dwellings demolished since 1st January,	
1956	385
Dwellings subject to Demolition Orders but not yet demolished	9
Dwellings subject to Closing Orders	31
Dwellings subject to Undertakings not to re-let for human habitation	50

Overcrowding.

No cases of overcrowding were reported during 1971.

Improvement Grants.

No. of applications approved by Council during 1971 for full Improvement Grants	...	...	14
Total amount of grant approved	...	...	£7615.79
Average per house improved	...	...	£543.98
No. of Standard Grants Approved	...	...	36
Total amount approved for Standard Grants	...	...	£7770.00
Average grant per house	...	...	£215.83
No. of Council houses improved with grant aid	...	...	72

The number of applications for grant approved during the year has shown an increase from 40 to 50, and it is anticipated that this figure will continue to rise or at least remain fairly constant. During the year 94 properties were inspected in connection with grants, and interest shows no sign of slackening as the benefits to be derived from the improved grants brought about by the Housing Act, 1969 become more and more publicised.

I have mentioned on a number of occasions that the grant schemes have been of great assistance in this District in preventing houses which are unfit, from falling into disuse and dereliction. Very few of the properties dealt with are straightforward cases of improvement, and the majority of them have to have substantial repair works carried out in conjunction with the installation of amenities. Were it not for grants, and the rehabilitation that these bring about, many more properties would have had to be dealt with and condemned under the normal Housing Act procedures.

It is interesting to note that so far only one property has been approved for the full £1,000 grant during the year. The next highest amount approved was for £757, the average being £543. There is no doubt that as building costs increase, and applications are made in respect of much older properties, the maximum grant will become more common.

Among the 36 Standard grants approved, 5 were improved to the reduced standard only.

Grants under Public Health Act 1936—Section 47(4).

During the year surveys of the small number of properties still on pail closets continued. Further comment on this is given under the section dealing with pail closet collections. These surveys and publicity regarding grants available had satisfactory results, and a number of owners of property eventually applied for grants. Wherever possible owners have been

encouraged to apply for improvement or standard grants ; and only in cases where the property could not qualify for either, or the owner did not wish to incur the expense involved, have grants under Section 47 been recommended. Nine grants under this section were given during the year for pail conversion. The maximum grant given is £75.

Summary of new dwellings completed during 1971.

Council Houses.	Bicker	...	...	...	...	...	4
	Kirton	...	...	...	...	...	29
							<hr/> 33
Private enterprise dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	70
							<hr/> 103

Remedy of Housing Defects.

Informal Notices	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Statutory Notices under the Public Health Act, 1936	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Statutory Notices under the Housing Act, 1957,	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Section 9	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

Action under Sections 16 and 17, Housing Act, 1957.

Demolition Orders made	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Closing Orders made	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Undertakings not to re-let accepted	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Dwellings demolished	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Undertakings cancelled following repairs	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

The majority of the sites licensed in the Rural District Council area are for single or two caravans only. There are 60 licensed sites in all with 47 of these actually being occupied.

The largest site in the area is a holiday caravan site for 88 vans. This is now fully developed and serving a very useful purpose, being mainly patronised by fishing enthusiasts and their families on holiday. The site is well run and gives the Department little or no trouble.

During 1971 development of a second holiday caravan site for 40 caravans at Hall Hills, Fishtoft actually got under way, and drainage work was completed. The site is intended to operate to a high standard, and individual connections for water closets for each caravan have been provided. Work on this site, however, has not been completed, and it has not been used during the year.

The only residential site of any size in the Council's district is one for 20 caravans. The site is an old established one attached to a public house, and run by the landlord. The site has been the subject of fairly numerous visits during the year, and of correspondence regarding repair and improvement of facilities. At the end of the year the Brewery Company intimated that they might decide to close the site in 1972. If this is done there will be no residential site of reasonable size left in the District which prospective caravan dwellers can use.

A well run residential site serves a very useful purpose. The larger, more modern caravans can make an acceptable home for elderly, and retired people. They also serve well as intermediate housing for younger couples, and people who cannot or do not wish to be housed in a Council house. I feel that at least one good residential site is needed in the District, and hope that if the present small site is closed a new one is developed to meet the demand which certainly exists.

DRAINAGE

The following table shows the built-up and village areas within the Council's District which are already sewered, and the number of properties which have connected into the various sewers.

Parish					Number Connected	Number not Connected
Kirton and Frampton	...	...	...	...	913	24
Wyberton	...	...	...	...	1010	32
Fishtoft	...	...	...	...	1110	27
Leverton	...	...	...	...	99	3
Freiston	...	...	...	...	165	9
Old Leake	...	...	...	...	109	7
Butterwick	...	...	...	...	200	22
Swineshead	...	...	...	...	357	46

The progressive policy of sewerage all main village areas is continuing. In early 1971 the Swineshead Road/West End Road, Wyberton extension scheme became available, and rapid progress with connections has been made.

The Sutterton and Wigtoft scheme continued to make good progress during 1971. It is anticipated that the completion of the sewers, pump houses, and disposal works will be on schedule, and the sewers will become available for connection in November 1972.

Other schemes which have been approved but not yet commenced are the Frampton Regional Sludge Disposal Plant, Frampton Works extension (including provision for treatment

of cesspool contents), and the Fishtoft Sewerage and Sewage Works extension. Work on these schemes should commence in 1972.

During the year advances were again made in the policy of improving the drainage at small groups of Council houses. A small scheme was completed at Long Hedges, Freiston to serve 8 Council houses. The effluent from these is now pumped to the Council's sewer at Halltoft End. At Fosdyke an extended aeration plant is being installed to serve the Council estate in Bell Lane, and a small number of private houses.

A great deal has been achieved in this District in improving houses and providing main drainage since the war. A lot still remains to be done at places such as Old Leake Common-side, Wrangle and Bicker. Although the Council are considering actively some of these areas and have prepared a strategic long-term plan for most of the remaining built-up areas, it is certain that the majority of them will not be sewered before re-organisation of local government takes place. The problem will then be in the hands of a new Council and it is to be hoped that they will continue to attack it with the same vigour and forward looking outlook.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

Refuse is collected each week from all dwellings in the District, apart from a small number of isolated houses which are visited fortnightly. There are five regular refuse rounds. A sixth vehicle is held in reserve to cover breakdowns.

During the year the Council continued its replacement programme for its older vehicles, and an order was placed late in the year for a new 35 cu. yard S. & D. Pakamatic refuse collection vehicle. Delivery of this vehicle is expected in the middle of 1972. This will complete the current replacement programme, and the Council will then have a mainly modern fleet. The oldest vehicle shown in the accompanying table will then be retired from regular service and become the spare vehicle. All the vehicles will be able to comply with the braking regulations laid down in The Motor Vehicles (Construction & Use) Regulations 1969, which come into force on 1st January, 1973.

Another important aspect of the replacement programme has been the purchase of larger capacity vehicles. This has enabled existing rounds to be so organised that journeys to the tip have been cut down to a minimum and, in most cases, to one visit only at the end of the working day. It has also given,

on some rounds, scope to absorb further increases in the volume of refuse, or to absorb additional work if the need arises.

Once again the collection of refuse has been carried out with the minimum of fuss, and complaints arising. As always, this must reflect credit on the men performing this work, and I again record my appreciation of their efforts, and of that of the foreman and staff closely connected with the day to day organisation.

In the early part of 1971 a preliminary Work Study of all manual workers employed by the Council was carried out at the Council's request by the Work Study Section of the Holland County Council. A feasibility report was produced by this organisation which assessed present performances, the scope for improvement, and the possibility of introducing a fully work studied incentive bonus scheme.

The feasibility report showed that the men were already working to a fairly high level of efficiency, and that there was relatively little scope for great improvement on performance. The feasibility study is to be followed by full work study during 1972. When these more detailed studies are available it is thought that savings can be made which will be beneficial to both the Council and the employees. A careful appraisal of any benefits must be made to ensure that prompt and efficient service to the public, which in my view is of prime importance, is not jeopardised.

Refuse disposal at Slippery Gowt Tip continued satisfactorily during the year. A further three acres of land was taken over from the farmer on 1st April, 1971, and part of the top soil removed. This has enabled tipping in controlled layers under all weather conditions to proceed smoothly.

The Weatherill hydraulic shovel (which was seven years old) had a serious breakdown in the early months of the year and needed replacement. Fortunately, its replacement was effected relatively quickly because plans were already well advanced at the time of the breakdown for its renewal in the normal course of vehicle replacement. The 2-3 weeks during which no machine was available to move and consolidate refuse properly, sharply illustrated the need to review the replacement of vital equipment long before it becomes a liability or ceases to function.

Some dumping of refuse in the countryside was again experienced during the year involving the Department in cleaning up operations at the public's expense. This was in spite of advertising the facilities available for use at the tip, or for free collections of special household wastes. There has, however, been a marked increase in public response to the use of the services available.

The following table gives detailed information in respect of the numbers and types of vehicles used and work done, the second table shows costs of the service :—

REFUSE COLLECTION SERVICE STATISTICS.

Round No.	One	Two	Three	Four	Five
Vehicle No.	VDO 646	LDO 231G	LDO 229G	LJL 634G	YJL 771
Purchased	1962	1968	1968	1969	1964
Capacity—cu. yds.	25	50	50	35	25
Engine Type	Diesel	Diesel	Diesel	Diesel	Diesel
Average miles per gall.	9	6	5	7	9
Average miles per week	222	125	108	185	175
No. of men in team	2	4	5	3	2
Refuse bins on round	1354	2317	2953	1398	1036
Average bins per man per day	135	116	118	93	104

	1971	1970	1969	1968
Estimated cost of Refuse Collection Service	£35,477	£32,965	£31,294	£29,783
Cost of emptying per bin	£3.92	£3.72	£3.55	£3.48
Cost per bin per collection	7.7p	7.3p	7p	7p
Average period between emptyings	7 days	7 days	7 days	7 days

CESSPOOL EMPTYING.

This service is carried out by two vehicles operating on a full time basis. They are assisted in busy periods for $2\frac{1}{2}$ days per week by the pail service vehicle when it has finished its normal work. The demand for the emptying of septic tank/soakaway systems of drainage is never constant, and in order to give the best possible service at peak periods in the winter and spring, and during periods of labour shortage because of holidays and sickness, it has again been necessary to have some overtime working.

Delivery was taken during the year of a new 1100 gallon cesspool vehicle as part of the normal vehicle replacement programme, and to ensure compliance with the Motor Vehicles (Construction & Use) Regulations, 1969. Both vehicles employed on the service are now modern, or comparatively modern, and the service can operate with less frequent breakdowns or serious maintenance problems. It has been possible to retain the older vehicle which was replaced, as a standby, and its availability has been invaluable during breakdowns or to supplement the service when it has been under pressure. Unfortunately, this 11 year old vehicle cannot comply with the new braking regulations and after 1st January, 1973, it will have to go off the road

It will be noted that the number of emptyings in 1971 has again shown an increase over previous years. This is explained largely by the fact that those properties which are still on septic tank systems of drainage are able to take advantage of the shorter free emptying period of 9 months and, when necessary, chargeable emptyings at the reduced charge of £1 per time. It must also be borne in mind that many properties have been modernised over the past few years. The installation of bathrooms and septic tanks for the first time in many cases is reflected in the increased use of water and need for emptying and desludging by this service.

CESSPOOL EMPTYING SERVICE STATISTICS.

Vehicle No.	TDO 110K	BJL 573 C
Purchased	1971	1965
Capacity	1100 galls.	1100 galls.
Engine Type	Diesel	Diesel
Average miles per gallon	12	11
Number of men in team	2	2

	1971	1970	1969	1968
Premises given free service	1934	1834	1815	1643
Chargeable emptyings	609	484	498	408
Vaults emptied—chargeable	13	16	9	20
1000 gallon loads removed from cess-pools, vaults, etc. ...	2146	1951	1975	1807
Vehicle loads removed from Housing Estate Sewage Plants ...	437	404	339	377

Estimated total expenditure of the Cesspool Emptying Service in 1971—£9,555.

Estimated income from chargeable work—£1,317.

Estimated net cost of the Service—£8,238.

PAIL EMPTYING SERVICE.

The need for this service still continues, but is now on a much reduced scale. The vehicle time spent on the service has been cut from three days per week in 1970 to $2\frac{1}{2}$ days per week in 1971. This has been brought about by continued reduction in the number of pail closets in use in the District as mentioned below.

During 1971 the number of pails requiring collection fell from 343 to 264, a reduction of 79. The 264 pails remaining at the end of the year are made up of 230 at private houses, and 34 at Council houses.

This reduction in numbers is as a direct result of the Council's policy of offering grants for pail conversions and other improvements following a survey of properties on pail closets commenced in 1970. Apart from private houses converted with the normal improvement grants, 9 grants were given under Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

At the end of the year there were still a number of grant applications in the pipeline and it is anticipated that the numbers of pails at private owner/occupied or rented properties will show a further appreciable decrease next year. It has become apparent, however, that applications for conversions are slowing down, and that despite every effort at publicity and persuasion there is likely to remain a residue of properties on pail closet sanitation. This is regrettable, and mainly arises at

very old property not worth improving, or where the owner/occupier (often elderly) is unable to finance his share of the improvement or conversion costs. If the Council adheres to its declared intention of ceasing the pail collection service at an appropriate time in the near future, then these properties may have to turn to the use of suitable chemical closets for the remaining period of their useful life ; or until a new owner comes along with the necessary funds to convert and rehabilitate the properties generally.

PAIL EMPTYING SERVICE STATISTICS.

Vehicle No.	ODO 513H
Purchased	1970
Capacity	1100 galls.
Engine Type	Diesel
Average miles per gall.	12
Average miles per round	166
No. of men in team	2
No. of pails on round	264
Average pails per man per day	53

	1971	1970	1969	1968
Estimated cost of Pail Emptying Service	£2,010	£2,120	£2,920	£3,220
Cost of emptying per pail	£7.61	£6.18	£6.82	£6.57
Cost per pail per collection	15p	12p	13p	13p

SALVAGE.

The amount of salvage collected during the year was much the same as in previous years. It will be noted, however, that there was a drop in the tonnage disposed of and the income received. This is due to factors outside the control of the authority. Despite hopeful forecasts in recent years within the waste paper industry of increased and steady demands for their products, and that wild fluctuations in demand for waste paper would be avoided, this has not been the case. In the early part of 1971 local authorities were first asked to restrict their loadings of waste paper to the mills on a voluntary basis, and later

a compulsory quota was imposed. In our case we were restricted for a time to despatching a maximum of 40 tons every three months. The quota system was still on at the end of the year, and has since been lifted as the economic position in the industry improved. It is by no means certain that conditions will remain stable, but it appears probable that our normal input of salvage will be sold satisfactorily in the coming year, and its collection and baling will continue to produce useful income and reduce nuisance at the tip.

Details of materials sold during 1971 are as follows :—

	Tonnes	£ p
Cardboard	46.78	559.80
Mixed Waste Paper	71.65	732.13
Newspaper	62.84	783.63
Textiles	3.79	67.28
Metals	14	11.72
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	185.20	2154.56
	<hr/>	<hr/>

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

FOOD PREMISES.

Routine visits to food premises have continued during the year. Contraventions found have been of a minor nature, and have been remedied by informal action. As usual the greatest attention has been given to the larger establishments, and to the slaughterhouses; and the standards generally have been maintained at a high level.

The quick-freezing and preparation plant at Frampton has continued to develop, and further extensions and improvements made. The slaughterhouse part of the premises was closed during 1971, and work commenced to convert the buildings for use in the preparation and quick-freezing part of the business.

All meat used in the business is now bought in, much of it from a larger slaughterhouse in Boston. There is no doubt that preparation premises of this type will become more important and grow in numbers to meet the demand of the public for easily prepared meals. There are already indications that the foodstuffs produced will be exported and marketed in the Common Market area.

	No. of premises	No. fitted to comply with Regulation 16	No. to which Regulation 19 applies	No. Com- plying with Regulation 19
Bakehouses	8	8	8	8
Bakery Transfer Depots ...	3	3	3	3
Fish Shops	10	10	10	10
Grocers and General Stores	56	56	41	41
Premises selling wrapped sweets and ice cream only	12	10	—	—
Cafes	3	3	3	3
Factory Canteens	3	3	3	3
Butchers Shops	12	12	12	12
Butchery Factories	1	1	1	1
Licensed Clubs	9	9	9	9
Public Houses	41	33	41	38
Hotels	5	5	5	5
Slaughterhouses	5	5	5	5
Butter Factories	1	1	1	1
Ice Cream Depot	1	1	1	1
Game Store	1	1	1	1
Dairy Depot	1	1	—	—

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

As mentioned under Food Premises, one of the six licensed slaughterhouses in the District closed during the year, and was converted to another use. The remaining five slaughterhouses received regular inspections by the Public Health Department ; and inspections were again made by a veterinary officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Standards have been maintained.

MEAT INSPECTION.

One hundred per cent. meat inspection has continued at the slaughterhouses in the District. With the co-operation of the butchers concerned, work outside normal working hours has been reduced to virtually nil except for Christmas and other public holiday periods. The closure of one of the larger slaughterhouses mid-way through the year reduced the load of inspections. The time gained has proved very welcome and has enabled the inspectors to devote additional time to the growing volume of other work, especially in the field of housing and improvement grants.

Again no charges were imposed for meat inspections. The Council decided on this policy several years ago as they felt that a free service was in the best interests of the public and the butchers, provided that a co-operative and reasonable basis

of slaughtering times was maintained. This in fact worked well and relations between the parties concerned has always been at a high level. Very few Councils, however, still maintain a completely free service, and when Local Government re-organisation takes place in some two years time the present concession to local tradesmen may have to cease.

The total number of animals slaughtered in the District again showed a drop, although this was to be expected with the closure of one of the slaughterhouses. The total weight of meat and offal condemned was proportionally higher, but the general quality of animals killed remains high.

Meat inspection figures for 1971 are as follows :—

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (as notified)	849	3	1	2116	3892
Number inspected	849	3	1	2116	3892
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci :					
Whole carcasses condemned	3	—	—	—	10
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	111	1	—	22	711
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.	13.43%	33.33%	—	1.00%	18.53%
Tuberculosis only :					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	27
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	0.72%
Cysticercosis :					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	1	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Total weight of meat and offal condemned—3 tons 18 cwts. 82 lbs.					

INSPECTION OF OTHER FOODS.

The undermentioned foodstuffs found to be unfit for human consumption were suitably disposed of :—

118 tons 12 cwts. 88 lbs. Imported onions.

204 lbs. Cherries.

180 lbs. Plums.

28 lbs. Cod.

24½ lbs. Haddock.

12 lbs. Tinned Ox Tongue.

12 lbs. Can Pork Shoulder Picnic.

27 x 10 lbs. Peaches.

5 Boxes Grapes.

398 lbs. Assorted frozen products.

3 x 6 kilos Aubergines.

ICE-CREAM.

42 samples of ice-cream were sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Lincoln for examination. They were placed in the provisional grades as shown below :—

Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
36	4	—	2

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT.

Re-inspections in respect of premises registered earlier and registrations received during 1971 were carried out, details are as follows :—

Registrations and General Inspections.

Class of premises	No. of premises registered during the year	Total No. of registered premises at end of year	No. of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	1	42	6
Retail Shops	2	44	22
Wholesale shops, warehouses	1	3	2
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	—	5	1
Fuel storage depots ...	—	—	—

Analysis of persons employed in Registered Premises by Workplace.

Class of Workplace	No. of persons employed
Offices	136
Retail Shops	122
Wholesale departments, warehouses ...	23
Catering establishments open to the public	8
Canteens	7
Fuel Storage depots	—
TOTAL ...	296
Total Males	170
Total Females	126

Number of visits of all kinds by Inspectors to Registered Premises—41.

STORAGE OF PETROLEUM.

57 visits were made to premises in connection with petroleum licensing. Most of these visits were in connection with new installations or alterations to existing ones. Once again very little time could be allocated to more routine checks to ensure that existing premises comply fully with the licensing conditions.

The Council's membership of the Association for Petroleum Acts Administration has again proved of value.

Number of licensed premises for storage :

Petroleum Spirit	205
Petroleum Mixtures	7
Carbide of Calcium	2

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Reference was made in last year's annual report to nuisances arising from a Knacker's yard and Animal By-Products factory in the District; and to a factory processing chicken feathers and chicken offal. Both premises have been a source of nuisance for a number of years and during the latter part of the summer of 1971 again gave rise to considerable trouble.

With regard to the Animal By-Products plant, the firm concerned had installed a chlorination plant and made other improvements late in 1970. Under reasonable weather conditions with normal South West or Westerly prevailing winds the treatment of gases proved to be effective. Trouble arose,

however, over a period of weeks when the wind was Easterly, and the weather hot and humid. Under these conditions houses in very close proximity, just inside the Borough boundary were badly affected with smells. Tenants were at times unable to have their windows open in hot weather or to enjoy the use of their gardens. These premises were the subject of a special report to the Council who decided to warn the firm concerned that unless their treatment plant, plus additional measures they proposed to take, proved effective in the future they would be obliged to take legal action.

As soon as the hot weather and east winds had gone the nuisance was abated. It will probably be next summer before it is known whether the measures adopted by the firm will be fully effective. I have previously expressed my doubts on this, because of the very close proximity of the housing estate affected, plus the fact that nuisance from the processing of stale or decomposing animal carcasses and offal is always more difficult to control in hot weather.

Considerable nuisances were also experienced during the summer period from the meal plant at Fishtoft. Again these were subject to a special report to the Council who warned the firm concerned that legal proceedings would have to be taken unless they adopted improved measures to prevent nuisance arising. Before the end of the year this firm had cut out all processing of chicken offal, and confined their processing to chicken feathers only. This has, of course, helped to improve matters. In November 1971 the firm had a pilot catalytic combination plant on trial at the premises. This gave excellent results, and it is hoped that they will consider the installation of a full scale plant. This will be very expensive, and they are first looking at other alternative methods of treatment.

During the winter months nuisances from the feather processing plant have been minimal, but again the critical period is in the summer and autumn.

Nuisances of the type described are of concern on a national scale, as are smell nuisances from other manufacturing and processing industries. The effect of these on good living conditions has now been recognised by the Department of Environment. This Ministry has set up a Working Party to investigate and make recommendations about the best practical means for the immunisation and suppression of smells. An absolutely foolproof cure in all circumstances is not yet known, and none of the better existing ones is cheap to install or run. The siting of premises is certainly a very critical factor whatever method of treatment is used, and I and other officers are awaiting the final report of this Working Party with great in-

terest. As in other fields of pollution it is certain that industry will have to put its house in order, and use the best available methods of doing so at whatever expense this involves.

RODENT CONTROL.

This work has continued to be done by the Cleansing Foreman with his other duties. Domestic premises are given free treatments, and treatments at business premises are on a chargeable basis.

The work of the foreman is supplemented by inspections and visits in especially difficult cases by the Public Health Inspectors. During the year the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food instituted a refresher course for Public Health Inspectors to advise them of up to date advances in the control of rats and mice, and pests of all kinds. The Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector (Mr. Thomsett) attended this course, and is able to pass on the knowledge gained and generally act in an advisory capacity. It is the intention of the Ministry to run these courses annually, and they have expressed the hope that the same officer can attend each year for the sake of continuity.

In 1971 the question of extending the Rodent Control Service to include contract or servicing schemes for dealing with infestations and surveys on farm land was considered by the Council. Financial provision for another full time operative and the necessary equipment was made early in the year as a precautionary measure. Later the implications, need, and full details were thoroughly explored; and in the light of the circumstances then prevailing the extension of the service was not proceeded with. Generally speaking farmers are well aware of the need to deal speedily and effectively with rodent infestations on their land and farms, and the majority deal with the problem very well. Whether they will need additional help and a service from the Local Authority is a matter to be kept under review, and can be dealt with if any changed conditions dictate such a course.

INSECT PEST CONTROL.

This work is carried out by the Council's Rodent Operative, and the Public Health Inspectors. No especially difficult problems were met with during the year, other than perhaps ants.

As I mentioned in my last year's report ants are a particularly troublesome pest, and can be difficult to eradicate. During the year, however, the Department purchased and used a

new type of ant bait, and good results have been achieved. Even with this material time and patience is needed on the part of householders where infestations are heavy and of long-standing.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the year 1971 for the Rural District of Boston in the County of Holland (Lincs.).

PART I OF THE ACT.

1.—**Inspections** for the purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspec- tions (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	7	1	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	79	40	Nil	Nil
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	86	41	Nil	Nil

2.—Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were Instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
Overcrowding (S.2)	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	nil	nil	nil	nil
(c) Not separate for sexes	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
Total	2	nil	nil	nil	nil

PART VIII OF THE ACT.

Outwork.

(Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of Work (1)	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of outworkers in August list required by Section 133 (1) (c) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prosecutions (7)

NIL OUTWORKERS.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS CARRIED OUT
BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS, ADDITIONAL TO
THOSE MENTIONED ELSEWHERE IN THIS REPORT.

Housing Acts	408
Improvement Grants	537
Caravan Sites	60
Piggeries	3
Nuisances	465
Infectious Diseases and Food Poisoning	59
Drainage	227
Dyke Pollution and Overflowing Cesspools	153
Insect Pests	144
Control of Refuse Tips	177
Public Cleansing Services	11
Slaughterhouses	20
Food Premises	203
Ice-Cream Sampling	51
Meat Inspection	691
Civic Amenities	45
Clean Air Act	17
Pail Conversions	268
Miscellaneous	74

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